

DEAN LEEDER'S NOTES

So much has happened since our last newsletter and I am eager to share our excitement with you. First of all, although there have been severe budget cuts we are working hard on trying to mount enough classes for our incoming 1800 freshmen. That is a challenge, but the departments and chairs have been valiantly working to staff classes with little funding. Nonetheless we graduated over 800 students from Social Sciences on the rainy graduation of May 27th and look forward to a robust and full schedule for the fall.



Elaine Leeder, Dean
School of Social Sciences

In the area of faculty development there has been much activity. The School recently ran a competition for faculty to propose interdisciplinary courses for the next academic year. That was in response to our strategic plan which highlighted the need for more collaborative work across departments. Two excellent proposals were selected and will be taught in the next year. One called “Shared places and contested pasts: Historical memory and historical preservation” will be offered as cross disciplinary courses in History, Anthropology, Sociology and Environmental Studies by Drs. Michelle Jolly (History), Margaret Purser (Anthropology), Melinda Milligan (Sociology) and Laura Watt (Environmental Studies and Planning). The other is called “Integrating interdisciplinary queer theory with psychological research and clinical applications” taught by Drs. Don Romesburg (Women’s and Gender Studies) and Matthew Paolucci Callahan (Psychology). In that format the two faculty will give guest lectures in each other’s courses. The selection committee was quite pleased with the quality of the proposals and look forward to institutionalizing the collaborative nature of these cross department offerings.

There is also much activity with faculty engaging in summer research. This year sixteen proposals were selected for funding. Jeff Baldwin (Geography) will work on research on re-colonization of beavers in the west, Alexis Boutin (Anthropology) is part of the Dilmun Bioarchaeology Project, Matthew Paolucci Callahan (Psychology) is studying anti-gay bias and James Dean (Sociology) is writing his book this summer focusing on “normal” versus “heterosexual.” Steve Estes (History) is working on confederate memory and the Republican renaissance in the American South, Mary Gomes of Psychology is studying fasting from electronic media and Mary Halavais (History) continues her study of the Moriscos who relocated to Rabat Sale. Maria Hess (Psychology) is developing a sandplay component for the counseling program at Roseland, Tom Jacobson (ENSP) is studying Environmental and Planning Law and Amy Kittelstrom (History) is continuing work on her book on the “Religion of Democracy”. Lena McQuade (WGS) is working on her book about bringing birth control to Santa Fe, while Laura Naumann (Psychology) is studying the impact of the First Year Experience and Educational Opportunity programs at SSU. Heather Smith (Psychology) is looking at physical appearance comparisons and Art Warmouth (also from Psychology) is writing the history of Humanistic Psychology. Finally, Eric Williams (Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies) is working on “hermit wardens”. Although receiving no funding, I am hard at work on my own book entitled “My Life with Lifers: What is a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?”.

This issue of the Social Science Advocate is dedicated to student engagement. It highlights some of the many activities in which students and faculty participate every semester. I hope that it piques your interest. If you want further information on some of these activities please contact me at leeder@sonoma.edu.

Warmly, Elaine Leeder, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Summer 2011

SSU IN NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS IN NYC

Professor Cynthia Boaz, Political Science, “There were approximately 300 schools representing 180 countries. Somewhere in the range of 30 schools got acknowledged for overall excellence of their delegation as a whole and we were one of them.

It is the National Model UN (<http://www.nmun.org>) held in New York City. We had 18 delegates on 9 committees of the UN (General Assemblies 1, 2, and 3; UNFPA, Commission on the Status of Women, Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Review, OSCE, ESCAP, and WIPO) plus a head delegate and me. They represented Azerbaijan. Prior to the conference, they were debriefed by a friend of mine from the UN Dept of Peacekeeping Operations and then also met with a representative from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the UN. Over the course of the 4.5 days, they debated issues, wrote and then voted on resolutions addressing topics the committees selected in the first meeting. Every resolution sponsored by our delegation in their respective committees passed. I am proud and very happy for them on their achievement. They worked very hard over the last three months and I'm grateful that work was acknowledged. “



SAN QUENTIN EXPERIENCE: A REFLECTION BY HEATHER COYNE

On April 30th my sociology professor, Elaine Leeder, graciously took twenty of her 214 students to a field trip at the San Quentin State Prison located in unincorporated Marin County. Upon arriving at the prison, I had the conceived notion that all prisoners were serial killers and would continue to murder people upon their parole. However, the inmates that I talked to, the members of the T.R.U.S.T., remolded my view completely.

First, I was shocked how remorseful the inmates were about their crimes, which most had committed before age eighteen. Most of them were convicted as adults, even though they were teenagers, because of the pre-mediation or sophistication of the crime. Second, I began to understand how the social construction around them leads them to become criminals. For instance, one inmate, Charlie, stated that he did not have consequences growing up. Since his father was out of his life, his mother had to work during the day and did not have the ability to monitor Charlie. So, if Charlie did not go to school or did not complete his homework, there were no repercussions because his mother was not around to instill them. Third, most of the inmates did not have a father figure in their lives, or if there was one he was physically abusing the mother of the family. This was the case with David who said he had no incentive to do well in school or succeed in life. His mother loved him, but was not an authoritative parent, so David started to hang around the wrong crowd (gang).

Some had histories of aggressive behavior problems that had hostile, inept or neglectful parents and others grew up with a loving mother and had no past delinquencies. I learned the two main risk factors for these youth (to progress to criminals) are poor parenting and affiliation with anti-social/troubled peers; the second, usually the result of the first. After my visit I felt so empathetic towards the inmates because I understood the circumstances of their upbringing which lead them to San Quentin. They were not aware of the consequences, did not think how the violent act would impact their future and the only role models in their lives were criminals. How could they not go down that path? Initially the inmates were socialized to become delinquents (through lack of parental control) and subsequently their brain had not fully matured when the acts of violence were committed. This is pivotal because in adolescence the prefrontal cortex has not finished developing; this part of the brain is responsible for planning, thinking ahead, weighing risks and impulsive control.

Furthermore, I was most interested in the events that led up to the imprisonment of these people, whom I would consider my friends. Peeling the layers of the onion, I understood the various circumstances of their childhood which led to their imprisonment. I was able to apply sociology definitions such as blaming the victim, self fulfilling prophecy and strain theory. From visiting San Quentin and talking to the members of the T.R.U.S.T., my perception of prisoners has changed (inmates have rehabilitated themselves). I am motivated to help them reach parole (good luck David 2014!). Words from Elaine Leeder, “Prisoners are People Too”. Thank you for the experience.

SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS ~ 2010

“Dangerous Foreigners in the Mexican Body Politic” ~ Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp, History. Theresa made regular use of the U.C. Berkeley Bancroft Library and went Mexico City to research records and Gilberto Loyo’s writings in order to adhere to a 5 year schedule for completion of her book project. She began building a database this summer of Mexican naturalizations from records of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 1828 and 1933.

“Diversity in Higher Education: A Call for Action” ~ Elisa Velasquez, Psychology. Elisa was able to provide some stipends to research assistants who participated in data analysis and review of the literature on retention of underrepresented college students. She also attended the 118th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association and presented a paper, “Embracing Multiculturalism and Diversity: An Institutional Journey”. This is all in the effort to facilitate campus-wide discussion and awareness of diversity on campus and their specific needs, perspectives and recommendations.

“Shared Group Membership, Value Affirmation and Observers’ Reactions to Injustice” ~ Heather Smith, Psychology. Heather tackled 3 goals with the assistance of her research grant. The first was to be a part of a symposium titled, “The Group as a Psychological and Political Resource” where she presented a talk at the International Society of Political Psychology. Second, Heather worked with 5 undergraduate students that were all co-authors of a research poster to be presented at the American Psychological Association annual meeting. Finally, She met with several colleagues during both conferences in order to prepare another NSF RU1 grant.

Julie Shulman, Counseling. Julie has designed an online survey and began data collection on the subject of women’s self-objectification and sexual satisfaction/sexual functioning. The summer grant funds helped her to devote needed time during the summer to analyze this data, the primary goal of which is to estimate a path model. The findings will inform the counseling practices used in working with women with a host of psychological concerns related to self-objectification.

“The Crisis of the German Left” ~ Diane Parness, Political Science. Diane’s summer research in Berlin amplified her understanding of the current crisis of the German Left and similar factors affecting leftist parties and movements across Europe. Interviews with members of Die Linke and the PSD provided insight and clarification of the issues facing smaller leftist parties trying to capitalize on the decline of the PSD. This research is tremendously useful for Diane’s courses on European Parliamentary Democracies, Comparative Political Parties and East European Politics. She is working on an article on the German case and hopes to expand this study to a more encompassing study of the realignment of European party systems.

The Curator’s Perspective: When Grown-ups Play with Dolls ~ Geri Olson, Psychology. As the curator for the “Art of the ‘Doll: Protection, Healing, Power and Play”, it has been Geri’s job to invite artists who use the doll form in their work to participate in this impressive exhibit. The exhibit was designed to explore the potency of the doll as an instrument to convey meaning, emotion, personal or social narrative, self-portrait, fantasy or play. The significance of the doll form, from ancient to modern, faerie world to gothic, sacred ritual to child’s play will be addressed through the gathering of nearly 100 artist dolls and a series of thought provoking seminars, demonstrations and presentations.

Primate Faces Project ~ Karin Enstam Jaffe, Anthropology. The object of the Primate Faces Project was to investigate whether there is a correlation between the presence of female dominance hierarchy and the degree of facial individuality and recognition. Karin and her collaborator, Dr. Lynne Isbell (of UC Davis), assembled a photo array consisting of five photos for each of the dominant hierarchy representatives and each of the species that do not form hierarchies. These photos were used with human test subjects to extrapolate whether non-human primates can easily distinguish between individuals. This project represents an expansion of Karin’s research from pure non-human primate behavioral studies to human test-subject research.

Narcissism ~ Maria Hess, Psychology. In the field of clinical psychology, work is being done on Narcissism as a spectrum of disorders formally thought of as one. Maria examined the constituents of narcissism, entitlement and classroom incivilities

SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS ~ 2010

with an eye towards publication and presentation at national conferences. She is focused on developing a model or manual to help educators deal successfully with the classroom difficulties endemic to many characterological phenomenon, particularly narcissism.

Heterosexuals in Post-Closeted America: Gender, Race and (Anti)Homophobias ~ James J. Dean, Sociology.

Last summer, James worked on revising three chapters (2, 6 & 7) to have a completed manuscript to send to the interested editors at the University of Chicago and NYU Presses. Chapter 2 sketches the historical context and rise of heterosexual identities in the US. Chapter 6 explores the narrative responses of heterosexual men and women to the unprecedented level of gay and lesbian media visibility. Chapter 7, the conclusion, argues that a post-closeted dynamic entails new divisions between homophobic heterosexuals and anti-homophobic ones, as well as the rise of more insidious practices of homophobia.

Research in Madrid ~ Mary Halavais, History. Mary was able to travel to Madrid and do some continued work and research in the Archivo Historico Nacional on the Moriscos of Aragon. She is excited about her discoveries, hoping that they are significant for some insight into previously unexplored territories.

Evaluating Approaches for Restoring Grasslands Invaded by Invasive Perennial Grasses ~ Caroline Christian, Environmental Studies and Planning. Caroline continued to expand a long-term experimental study that she initiated in the Fall 2009 to evaluate the efficacy of different management techniques for restoring grasslands invaded by Harding grass, an exotic perennial grass species that is spreading in the grasslands at Fairfield Osborn Preserve and elsewhere throughout California.

Fostering Positive Academic Emotions in At-Risk Students ~ Maureen Buckley, Counseling. Maureen conducted an extensive literature review in the areas of academic emotions and school success and explored the link between the two concepts. She also analyzed potential variations in the constructs' relationship for various groups of students. She hopes to finalize a plan of action for a follow-up research study, journal article and a presentation.

Dilmun Bioarchaeology Project ~ Alexis Boutin, Anthropology. The goal of this project was to study and publish the results of Peter B. Cornwall's 1940-41 expedition to Bahrain and eastern Saudi Arabia. As co-director, Alexis is in charge of analyzing the skeletal collection, in addition to helping oversee the project as a whole. A paper presentation is also in preparation for the International Conference on Zooarchaeology.

Jolly Beach as a Cultural Progressive Sense of Place ~ Jeff Baldwin, Geography. Jeff completed a paper on the sites of international tourism. The article applied a relational ontology of place to develop an understanding of a touristed beach at Jolly Harbour in Antigua, West Indies. The paper will have a wide audience among human geographers, appealing to specialists in tourism, cultural, relational and feminist geographies.

Racial Perceptions in Rural Prison Towns ~ Eric J. Williams, Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies. Eric is working on a survey research on racial perceptions in rural prison towns. He studied four towns, two with prisons and two without, to see if the prison has changed the community residents' perceptions of race.

NEWLY PUBLISHED

Professor Heather Smith, Psychology, and graduate NoGAP McNair Scholar, Ray Parr, published an article in the prestigious student affairs journal, *Journal of College Student Development*, Vol. 51, No. 4, July-August, 2010. It is titled, "Five Years After Graduation: Undergraduate Cross-Group Friendships and Multicultural Curriculum Predict Current Attitudes and Activities".

SENIOR SEMINAR

Last Spring, History Senior Seminar (Hist 498: U.S. Immigration) students and library staff went to Angel Island for a tour of its Immigration Station. Students read about the how immigration officials stationed at Angel Island enforced the Chinese Exclusion Acts holding many Chinese, Japanese, and enemy aliens at Angel Island between 1910 and 1940.

Pictured here from left to right are: Samantha Lange (Library), SSU History Students Kevin Conklin, Daniel Eckert, Helen Tumlin, Prof. Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp, Kelly Nastasuk, Richie Lemos, Tim Laumann and Rick Robison (Library).



CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLASS GOES TO PRISON



The United States Penitentiary at Atwater is a maximum security facility that houses almost 1200 inmates from across the country held for a variety of Federal crimes. The Warden there, Hector Rios, has given five groups of students enrolled in CCJS 450: Punishment and Corrections a tour of his facility. The students get a view into a world that few people see outside of the “Lockup” marathons that MSNBC shows every weekend and gain an important understanding of how theory and practice merge together.

Professor Eric Williams has been taking students on these tours for the past two years and students often claim that it is the highlight of his class. They rent vans for

the three hour trip to the Central Valley and spend about three hours touring the facility. The students are guided by corrections officers, and sometimes the warden, who answers questions as they go. They spend the most time in the “challenge unit”, a long term treatment community where inmates get drug and alcohol counseling. They spend some time with one of the inmates, who discusses his life in the facility.

This experience is well worth the long drive, as Prof. Williams’ students get to have a better understanding of the real world that they read about in his course. They are required to do a write-up on their experiences, which includes references to the various works they’ve read through the semester. In all, the tour to USP-Atwater has been a great learning tool for his students and a great way to get them out of the classroom to see what life is really like, if only for an afternoon, inside the razor wire.



Vicki Bailey has been a generous donor to the School of Social Sciences for many years. She has been on the board of Stacross International, which is an organization familiar to many in Sonoma County. They are the folks; Brother Toby, Sisters Julie and Marti, who first discovered and assisted the AIDS orphans in Romania some years ago. They now have the House of Hope in Uganda which takes in orphaned children whose parents have died of AIDS and have no one. The organization also assists children who have little or no family and zero monetary support. The children are fed and clothed and educated. It seems a drop in the bucket considering the world as it is but perhaps they can help this generation of children to more than survive - to flourish and contribute to their society. All the children that have gone through House of Hope etc. have gotten jobs which is remarkable in a country with a very high rate of unemployment.

Vicki’s own family has been supporting them for years - usually as part of Christmas and recently she has joined the Board. “To see the faces of these children is to give one hope. Would we could help all the children of the world.” She is also a supporter and big fan of Habitat for Humanity.

Without the interest, involvement and support of our donors, we wouldn’t be able to have the freedom to assist students in their internships, professors and students to attend conferences to add to their depth of knowledge, upgrade some of our labs and facilities, and the communal support we need to keep our school offering a high quality of education.

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Entrance to GLBT History Museum



Wedding Outfits

SOCIOLOGY CLASS VISITS CASTRO DISTRICT

As part of Professor James Dean's Sociology of Sexualities course, his class visited the Castro District in San Francisco on Saturday, March 19.

Professor Dean's class read the biography of Harvey Milk this semester and visited Milk's former camera store, toured the public plaza dedicated to him, and took a docent lead tour of the new social history exhibition curated by Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Historical Society during their fieldtrip to the Castro. The exhibit included memorabilia from Harvey Milk's runs for city supervisor, the wedding pant suits worn by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, the founders of the first lesbian organization in America, among a host of other historical artifacts.

Dean Leeder graciously offered to pay for the students' entry fee to the exhibition and many students said that the Castro field trip was a major highlight of Professor Dean's course.



Harvey Milk Personal items